

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

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ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMARE (PLEASE
PASS TO APPLEBAUM, NSC STAFFS, STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER
MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR
MR JOHN YEO.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 28 MARCH 1974

SUBJECT: INDO-US RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 4389, 27 MAR 74, CONF

IN A CONVERSATION WITH US AMBASSADOR ROYKINIAN IN NEW DELHI
ON WEDNESDAY, FOREIGN MINISTER SHARAN SINGH SAID INDO-US RELATIONS
ARE "EVOLVING IN A POSITIVE MANNER" AND ASKED FOR ANY HELP THE
US COULD GIVE TO INDIA IN COPING WITH FOOD SHORTAGES AND INCREASED
OIL PRICES. SINGH MAINTAINED THE RECENT SPATE OF ANTI-US ATTACKS
BY INDIAN LEFTISTS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY, BECAUSE
THE COMMUNISTS IN INDIA ARE MORE OR LESS ISOLATED POLITICALLY
AND THEIR PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

DATE: State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file
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THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO DOWNPLAYED THE DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE BUT NOTED THAT INDIA'S OPPOSITION TO THE EXPANSION OF US NAVAL FACILITIES SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS MERELY "FORMAL." ON THE OTHER HAND, SINGH STATED INDIA WAS NO "TORCH BEARER" ON THIS ISSUE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE BIG NAVAL POWERS OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN--US, UK, FRANCE, USSR--TAKE THE LEAD IN STARTING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT "MUTUAL RESTRAINT IN THE PROCESS OF ESCALATION" OF MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE REGION. HE THOUGH "SOME" LITTORAL POWERS SHOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED.

IN REGARD TO ALLEGATIONS THAT INDIA HAS GIVEN THE SOVIETS NAVAL FACILITIES IN INDIA, SINGH SAID THIS WAS "TOTALLY FALSE." HE ALSO SAID INDIA MIGHT CLOSE THE ISRAELI CONSULATE IN BOMBAY IF ISRAEL CONTINUES TO BE "INTRANSIGENT, IMPOSSIBLE." BUT NEW DELHI'S ACTION WOULD BE AT ITS OWN DISCRETION AND NOT IN RESPONSE TO THE NON-ALIGNED BUREAU, WHICH IS CALLING ON THE NONALIGNED STATES TO BREAK ALL TIES WITH ISRAEL. E-2 IMPDET.4

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